MONTEREY NEWS

NOVEMBER 1990

TOWN NEWS

Selectmen's Meetings

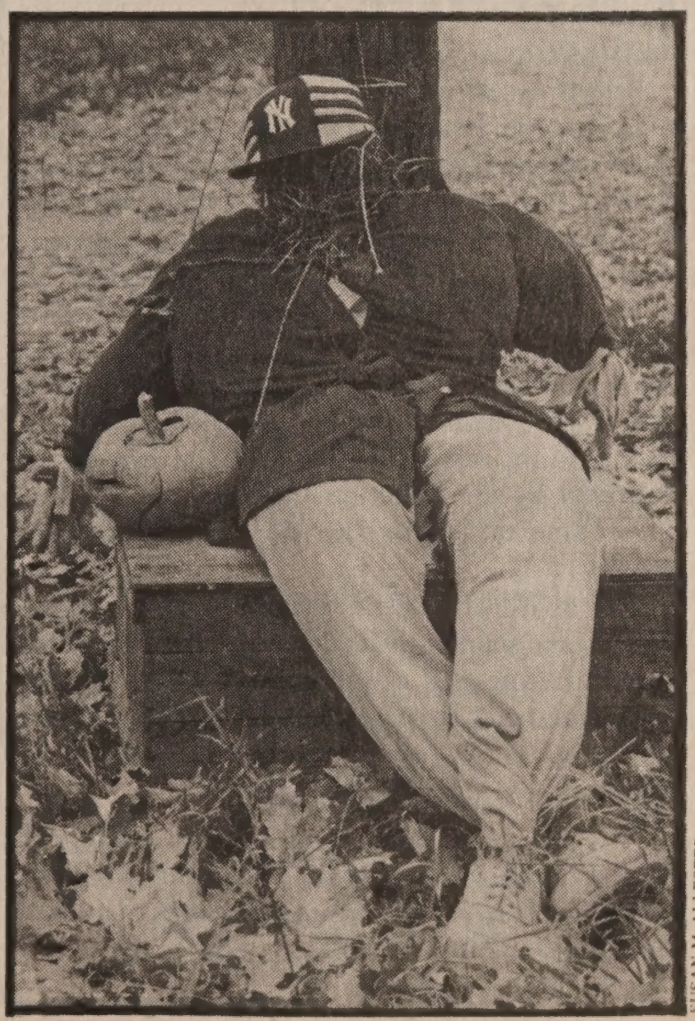
The Konkapot River clean-up project to be done by the office of the Berkshire County Commissioners for the Town of Monterey has experienced a setback. On October 2, John Piretti of the Conservation Commission served a cease and desist order on the work crew of the County Commissioners because the Town of Monterey had failed to obtain an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission.

Over the past several months, the Selectmen have been working on the project and have obtained much of the necessary information. However, the Board still lacked several items requested by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Conservation Commission. In addition, the Selectmen had obtained the necessary landowner permissions but had neglected to submit them to the Commission before work on the project began.

On April 2, the Town filed a notice of intent, stating that the work was to be done during July and August, when there is usually little rainfall or water run-off and erosion problems are at a minimum. But because the schedule of the County Commissioners was constantly changing, the Selectmen never knew when the work would begin. Unfortunately, the work crew appeared on October 2, after the Lake Garfield drawdown had begun, and the water level of the river was higher than usual.

The Selectmen stated in their minutes "that the Conservation Commission did not serve the Town well" in shutting down the project because it may result in increased expenditures by the Town. Selectman Bill Bohn said that Monterey is a small town where the residents often see each other and that additional information could have been obtained by the Conservation Commission by asking, as opposed to shutting down the project. The Conservation Commissioners believe that, in three written documents and at several meetings, they gave the Selectmen ample indication that additional information on the project was needed in order to obtain the order of conditions imperative to the project. At this writing, the Selectmen still need to obtain an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission.

In other news, the Selectmen authorized Chief of Police Doug Lyman to hire Harry Vickerman and Mae Pratt as school crossing guards for the 1990-91 school year. There was also discussion as to whether there is a need for a police officer in the center of town on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer and fall foliage season.



SUSAN McALLESTER

The Board voted unanimously to sign a one-year contract with Admet Recycling Co. of Naugatuck, Connecticut. The contract provides for the removal, hauling and recycling of light iron, white goods, copper and aluminum. Admet will install, maintain and be responsible for containers at the Town's disposal area to hold the goods, which will be removed by Admet on a regular basis. The Town will furnish a drum container for the collection of copper and aluminum. Admet will return to the Town ten percent of the value of the materials removed, based on the daily market and Admet's dealer prices.

The Selectmen have prepared form letters to issue to violators of the Town's dump sticker and mandatory recycling regulations. The attendant at the Town Disposal Area is required to turn in the names and license-plate numbers of violators. In addition, the Board met with Wayne Burkhart of the Solid Waste Committee to discuss the possible options for recycling plastic. The Solid Waste Committee will meet and make a recommendation at a later date.

Winter Disposal Area hours, beginning Sunday, October 28, will be:

SUNDAY	10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)
SATURDAY	8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)

Selectman Bill Bohn informed the Board that the plans for the Town offices' septic system and the request for design applicability have been completed by Soil Tech. Mr. Bohn plans to contact the Town Hall Feasibility Committee to review the plans and then begin the bidding process for the project.

Peter Vallianos met with the Selectmen on behalf of the Monterey Land Trust and asked the Board to sign a Conservation Restriction-Easement for a portion of the David and Susan McAllester property located at the easterly end of Lake Garfield. Upon approval by the Selectmen and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the restriction will be perpetual.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to endorse and support Ballot Question 5, a citizen initiative allocating 40% of the state sales, income and corporate taxes to local services. The Board urges all citizens of the Town of Monterey to vote Yes on Question 5 in the November election.

The Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Harry Gustafson as Assistant Assessor for the Town. There will be a minimum of eleven and a maximum of eighteen hours of work per week at his present salary of $7,000 per year.

The Selectmen met with the Planning Board on September 27 to discuss some concerns, including the proliferation of signs in the public right-of-way, removal or deposit of soil on private property, and protection of scenic roads. Lake Garfield was also discussed, specifically jet ski noise, moorings and unbuildable lots. The Planning Board will investigate these issues and report back to the Board of Selectmen.

At 8 p.m. on September 24 the Board of Selectmen opened sealed bids for road sand for the Highway Department. It was unanimously voted to award the bid to J. Donovan & Son of Stockbridge, the low bidder at $8.40 per ton. The Board also opened sealed bids for road salt for the Highway Department. One bid was received from Akzo Salt, Inc., of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, for $41.91 per ton of salt, and the Board voted unanimously to accept it.

The Board of Health voted unanimously that a fall percolation test period be held from October 15 to November 1, due to the wet weather of the past months. It was noted that this will be the last time the Town plans to have perc tests in the fall, per the recommendation of Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter Kolodziej. In other Board of Health news, it was unanimously voted to adopt a "Certificate of Inspection" for subsurface sewage disposal systems under Title 5. The certificate is to be signed by the system designer and submitted to the Board of Health within thirty days of the final inspection.

The following building permit applications were approved: Sandra and Michael Leining for a garage addition to their Chestnut Hill Road home; Lewis Scheffey for a deck addition to his Main Road house in care of Maynard Forbes, his representative; William E. Mielke, Sr., for the replacement of a deck at his Blue Hill Road house, in care of Mike Mielke.

In an update on the earth barrier located on the Winfield Ogden property, the owner has complied with the request of the Board of Selectmen to move the barrier out of the Town right-of-way. The Selectmen sent Mr. Ogden a letter confirming his willingness to move the barrier and stated that they hoped he would make the familiar view available to the townspeople once again. Apparently, this is not going to happen, since the barrier is intact on Mr. Ogden's property. It is still a controversial issue in town, with many people upset about the barrier's existence. There are others who feel that Mr. Ogden's right to privacy supercedes the right of the general public to enjoy the view.

— Maggie Leonard

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The Planning Board held its monthly meeting on October 11, with Joyce Scheffey, Wayne Burkhart, Elk Dempsey and Chairman Joe Baker attending.

Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger, Parsons and Associates, Inc., submitted a revised Form B Preliminary Subdivision Plan for Stevens Lake Associates. The plan was redesigned to avoid an awkward "pork chop" shape of one of the parcels and to meet road frontage requirements. There had been a question about access to one of the building lots, and after walking the property, Joe Baker and Wayne Burkhart were assured that there is proper access. Board members voiced questions about the amount of traffic expected on the subdivision road, legal proof that old Route 23 is an abandoned road, options concerning an existing dwelling on one of the building lots, and the financial arrangements of posting a bond during the road construction project. An official letter of inquiry will give Stevens Lake Associates an opportunity to answer these questions.

The Board approved a survey plan for the William J. and Carol L. Sadlowski property on Route 23 presented by Mike Parsons. Five acres that do not constitute a building lot will be conveyed to the Sadlowski parcel from the abutting Dimov property. The additional acreage will provide a buffer between the existing dwelling on the Sadlowski property and the abutting property line.

The Board reviewed the public hearing of October 4, which gave community members an opportunity to discuss the Stream and Pond Protection bylaw proposal. The Board voted unanimously to use the same presentation that was used at the Town Meeting in May for the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Ratification of the bylaw has been delayed by the Attorney General because part of the text of the bylaw appeared on a map. This has been corrected, and the bylaw proposal will be voted on at the Special Town Meeting on October 19.

The next meeting of the Monterey Planning Board is scheduled for November 8, and the agenda is as follows: review concerns of the Board of Selectmen; discuss progress of bylaw reprint; update on Stevens Lake Associates project.

— Maggie Leonard

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CHURCH NEWS

ATTENTION, MONTEREY MEN! You are invited to breakfast—on Sunday morning, November 4, at 8:00 a.m. in the church basement. We'll have a sumptuous feast to nourish your body and an interesting guest speaker to stimulate your thinking. Bob Collins, program director for the Berkshire Broadcasting radio stations WSBS and WBBS, will speak on "The Role of Media in Our Community." Bob is a witty and engaging speaker who has much to say on the subject and will answer any of your questions. We hope you will attend and then stay for our regular service of worship at 10:00 a.m. A free-will offering will be taken to help cover the cost of the breakfast.

THE CHOIR SINGS AGAIN! After a long period of silence, the church choir is once again lifting its collective voice in joyful song. On the first and third Sundays of each month, their enthusiastic musical leadership is helping our congregation to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." If you love to sing and want to be part of this creative enterprise, please give Kathie Maye (528-2516) or Dave Whitten (528-5542) a phone call. Rehearsal is on Wednesday evening.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION! Join us for our annual Thanksgiving worship celebration on Sunday morning, November 25, at 10:00 a.m. Our theme will be "Remembering to Give Thanks."

— Cliff Aerie

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met October 3. There was an educational program in charge of Kam Tierian. Deputy Peter Martin was present for ritual review.

The recent fund raiser was a success, and the Grange would like to thank everyone who helped. The winners were:

Bill Mielke, Monterey: gift certificate from the Monterey General Store
Eva Klein, Mill River: gift certificate from Ward's Nursery
Frances Amidon, Monterey: gift certificate from Big Y
Dave Evans, Sheffield: gift certificate from Price Chopper
Myrtle Mercier, Stockbridge: "cheer" from Domaney's Liquors
Bill Russell, Ancramdale: basket of groceries donated by members

At the October 17 open meeting, attended by sixty people, there was a rededication ceremony conducted by the Worthy State Master, Floyd Murphy, in honor of our 80th anniversary. Highlights of our Grange history were recalled, birthday cake was served, and a prayer written by the Reverend Ray Ward in hono of our 50th anniversary was read by Mary Ward. The Outstanding Citizen Award was presented to Reverend James and Mrs. Chase. Kam Tierian presented a skit, and Alice Shaffier gave a humorous reading. A candlelight ceremony, "The Grange Foundation," concluded the program.

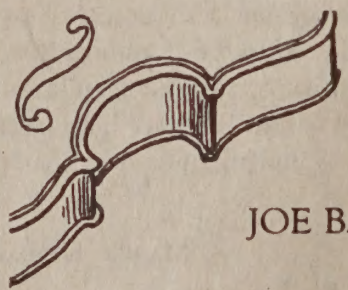
The next meeting will be November 7, when Pirate Bingo will be played. Players are asked to bring a wrapped gift.

— Mary Wallace, Lecturer

Jesus, throughout his ministry
Kept laying his hand
On unlikely people, saying,
You are needed,
And so awakened in them
A transforming respect
For the importance
of their own lives.

COME SHARE THE SPIRIT!

The Monterey United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 A.M.



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CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

The Children's Health Program encourages area residents to assist area children by purchasing holiday gift items from the CHP Store. The store will be open at the Russell House, 54 Castle Street, Great Barrington each Friday in November and December from 10 a.m. to noon, except November 23 and December 28. Items on sale will include: *Kid's Kure for Kabin Fever*, a booklet containing hundreds of ideas for children's activities, necklaces and earrings created from handmade paper beads; CHP t-shirts; and CHP tote bags.

Our clothing exchange is in need of good used snowsuits and jackets for infants—size 2 children. We appreciate the numerous donations of items we have received through the year.

Our November activity will be a Turkey Party to be held at the West Stockbridge Playgroup. First Congregational Church on November 20, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

With winter weather on the horizon, we encourage families who might qualify for fuel assistance to contact Community Services at 528-1947.

— Claudette Callahan

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BOARD OF ASSESSORS NEWS

The FY 91 Revaluation, performed by Patriot Properties, Inc., was started in December 1989. All buildings were remeasured and, if someone was home, an interior inspection (i.e., walking through the house noting type of walls, type of floors, type of heat, number of rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms, fireplaces, etc.) was completed. All properties where an interior inspection was not completed were revisited. If no one was home, a card was left stating that someone from the Assessors' office was here and please call to make an appointment. After this phase, a letter was sent to all owners of houses where an interior inspection was still not completed, asking them to schedule an appointment between June 26 and July 14.

A market value for each property was determined by analysis of sales in 1989. Recently there have been many articles about the sagging real estate market, especially the Northeast. However, Monterey was not affected by this in 1989, the year of our analysis. We cannot, could not and did not attempt to predict what your property would sell for today. The market value listed on each notice reflects our determination of the amount the property would have sold for on January 1, 1990.

For comparison's sake, we have lists of valid sales for 1989 and 1988 and lists of value by owner, by street, and by map-block-lot. It is our hope that these lists will clarify many questions you may have. The phone number for the Assessors' office is 528-6481. Please call between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

— Michael Banner

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NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

The Town Clerk would like to remind the people of Monterey, both full- and part-time residents, that deer-hunting season will soon be upon us. When people with guns are out in the woods, it is even more dangerous than usual for dogs to be wandering loose. Be sure to secure your dogs, even though you might believe they will never stray from your property.

Any dog, including the oldest, the laziest and the most trustworthy, will take off if the temptation is great enough. Your gentle, timid dog will run deer if you permit it. The Town will hold you responsible for the behavior of your dogs, not only during deer season—we know from experience that dogs will continue to harass deer through the winter months and into the early summer.

The dog restraint law passed at the last Town Meeting will be enforced. You will pay a fine if your dog is caught running loose. But your dog may pay a much higher price—hunters sometimes shoot dogs by mistake. And it is the right of a landowner to shoot your dog if it is harassing farm animals.

To protect your dog and your pocketbook, please license your dog if you have not already done so. Not only is it the law, but it gives your dog additional protection. Dogs with tags are regularly returned to their owners. Dogs without tags are in a particularly risky situation during this season of the year.

SOVIET STUDENTS VISIT MONTEREY

Guided by Bernie Kleban and Helen Sheingold, fourteen young men and women students, and their faculty advisor from the Thorez Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow visited the Bidwell House, the Parade Grounds, the church and General Store in Monterey center, and Gould Farm on Saturday, October 13.

About 75 used books in English, French, and Spanish—all on subjects of interest to the students—were donated by people from Monterey, East Otis, and New York.

Following a very friendly reception and dinner at Gould Farm, the group visited the Weitz-Barnett home on Lake Garfield, where a lively question and answer period was held.

Following three months of study at the State University of New York in Albany, the group will return home on December 26.

— Bernard Kleban

MONTEREY WASTELINES

Our human tendency is to fall into patterns of repetition which reduce our need to decide or to make physical efforts. If I always eat spinach, potatoes and strawberry ice cream for dinner, I don't have to make so many decisions. But of course, my nutrition will suffer because it is the greatest possible variety which gives the best balance of nutrients.

This same tendency has led us into a bad direction in waste handling in the past several generations. Increasingly, we've become more wealthy and more busy as a society and have made many conscious and unconscious decisions to trade energy and other resources for paltry bits of time saved in waste handling.

In our kitchens and households, we came to have one garbage can — *all* of our waste went into it, no matter what kinds of energy or future value those materials represented. The same thing happened at all of our larger building or demolition projects — we dropped off huge dumpsters, loaded up steel, boards, glass, and dirt and hauled it away.

The good news is that we are finally waking up to our collective folly. Little by little, we're discovering that our environment cannot take what we have been shoving at it. The value of our throw-aways is indeed higher than we thought — sometimes people will even pay us for these materials if we just sort them a bit. And none of us is really too busy to spend a bit of time sorting materials at the waste side of our domestic and worktime activities.

In Monterey, we've been making steady progress together in waste management. We collected about 100 yards of light metal over the summer. The large pile at the transfer station will soon disappear, and we will have a container for residents to drop off light metal whenever the station is open.

Plastic recycling is also coming in the very near future. We expect to be able to receive many different kinds of plastic materials in one container. Details will be coming on this program, which is being promoted by our regional solid waste district through the efforts of chairperson David Steindler of Sheffield.

I am happy and a bit surprised at how quickly we all (town residents, waste management businesses and governmental units) have attacked the waste problem. Maybe there's hope for our Commonwealth and our nation in addressing some other social and economic problems.

— Wayne Burkhart

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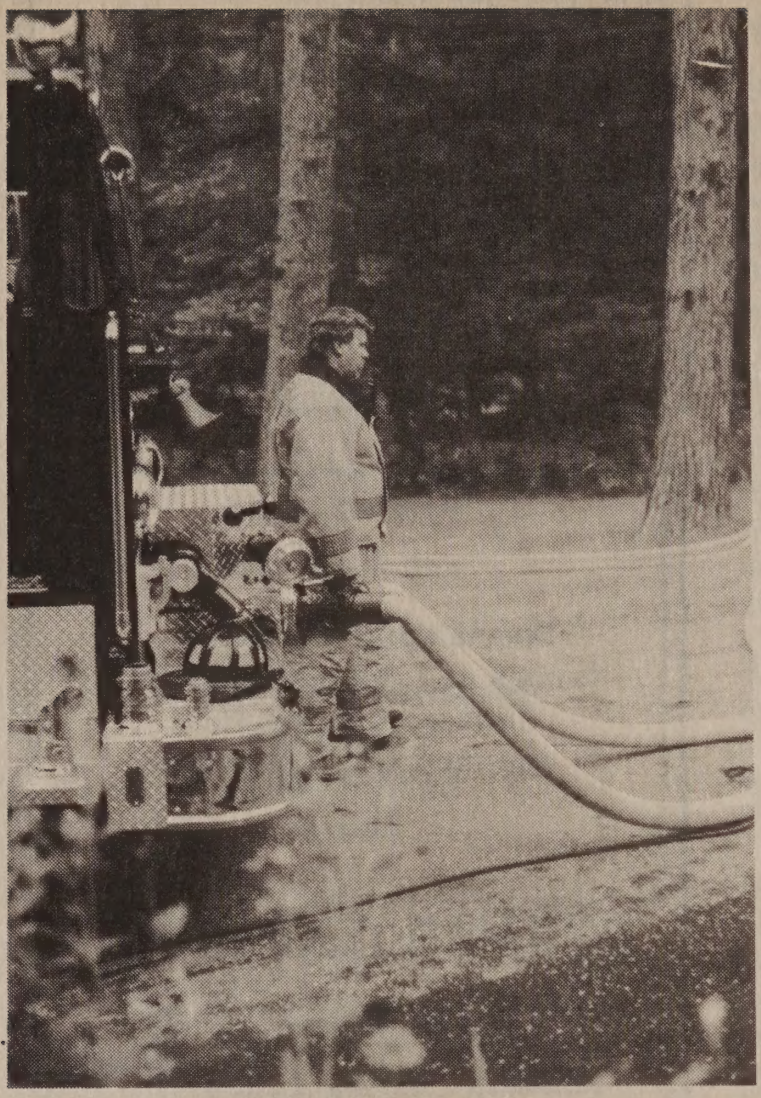
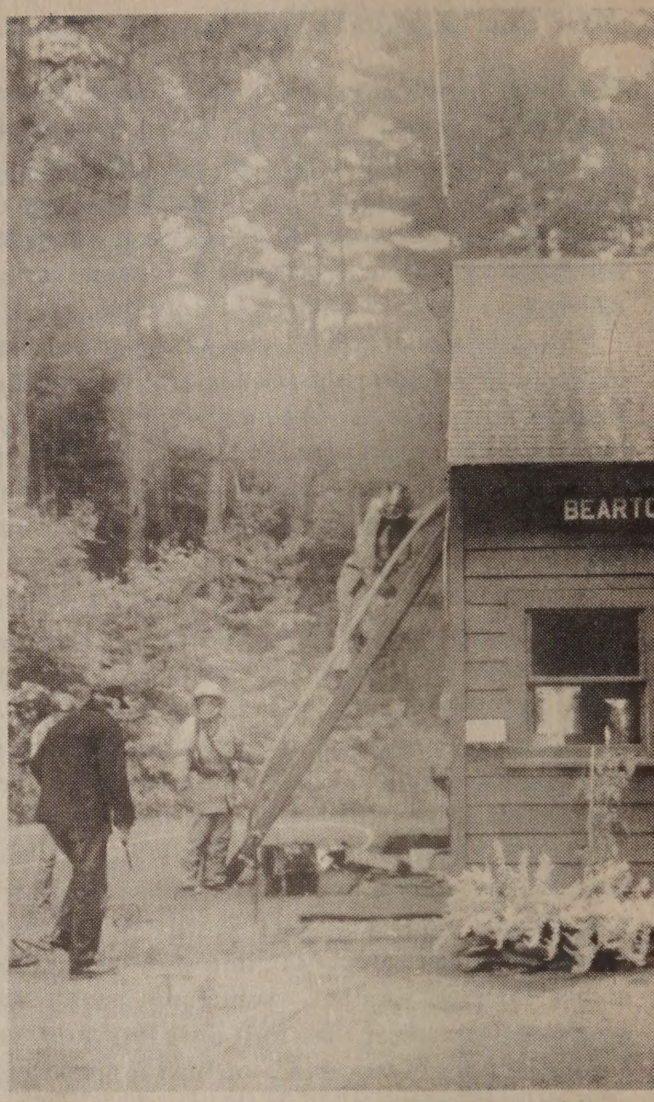



BEARTO

BEARTOWN

Emily Olds was on hand to take these pictures of firefighters from Monterey, New Marlboro and Great Barrington as they battled a small fire at the Beartown State Forest Headquarters. Being a Samoyed, the dog figured it was his job to direct the operation.

MAKING A PEARL: THE BURNED UP CAR

An oyster has no aesthetic concerns, as far as I know. She produces the lovely smooth inner shell or nacre, which people value for jewelry and buttons, but for her the pearl is a solution to a problem. Some foreign object gets inside her shell. It is irritating, perhaps painful or dangerous to her soft body parts. She has the material and the mechanism, if not the consciousness, to cover these alien rough edges with something which is acceptable, comfortable, familiar.

We got a piece of grit in our cozy environment a few weeks ago. It wasn't right inside our shell or our house, but when you live in the country and drive a certain stretch of road every day you expand your territory, your holdings, to include all that which makes up your familiar daily life. We live in Monterey, east of town, and our road to the Post Office and General Store is Route 23. One day a strange car appeared on our bit of Route 23, and of course we noted it. It was a white VW Rabbit, somewhat rusty, and we figured its owners had gone for a walk in the woods, maybe. The car was still there at the tail end of the day, though, so our speculation ran to engine failure, lack of gasoline, a broken clutch cable. We searched our own collection of experiences to find an answer to the question: What is this car doing here, still, on our bit of highway?

The next day, however, all our speculations were blown sky-high. Our collection of experiences was no longer of use in solving the problem because something alien had occurred. The little car had been burned up during the night. All of a sudden the minor mystery had turned into a foreign object which was painful, frightening.

We began to hear from other people who drive east of town. People said things like, "This is like being in the South Bronx!" and, "It looks so awful! Why doesn't somebody take it away?" In fact nobody did take it away for quite some time, so one way and another we all learned to live with it. I experienced an evolution of reaction which started with disbelief. How could there be anyone around here so violent and destructive as to burn up a car? I felt a little fear for personal safety and remembered the smattering acts of vandalism which have occurred down the years in this general neck of the woods.

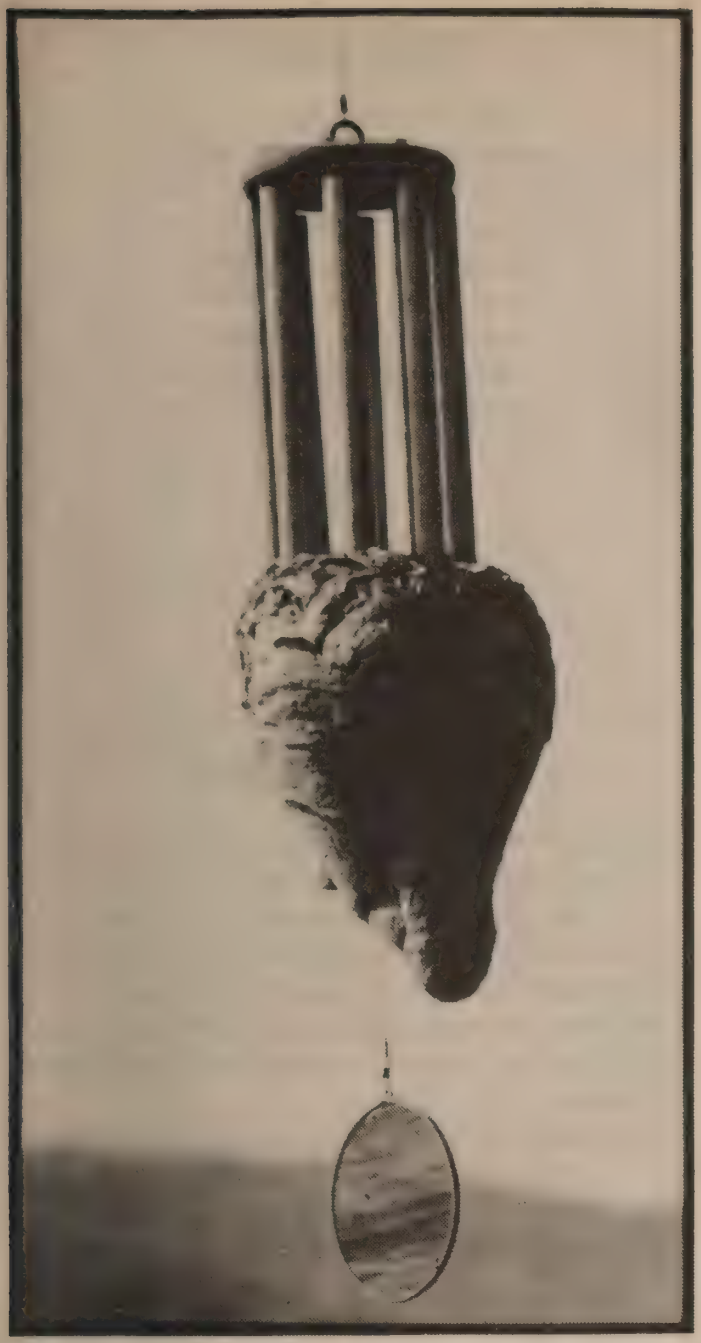
Then I thought about that South Bronx remark. I have never been to the South Bronx, but I have driven to New York City and have felt the trembling of the country mouse as I pictured my car breaking down somewhere in the jungle, or the no-man's land. As I drove past the stripped, mutilated hulks I said prayers for my gasoline, engine, and clutch cable.

Here in Monterey, day after day I would pass the hunk of scorched metal, squatting on its hubs over a black residue that had once been tires, undercoating, upholstery, paint. After a while I began to take it as a reminder of how I normally *don't* have to deal with such "big city" violence in my life, such sights in my daily world. I began to feel the ugly wreck was a two-fold message to me: 1. Remember to be grateful that your life is essentially free of such things, and 2. Remember that there are a great many people in the world for whom this is not the case.

The children, too, began to change their tone about the burned-up car. They no longer speculated about what had happened to produce this eyesore and complicated monument but focused more on why it was still there. "Do you think we ought to call the police? Why don't *we* just take it away since we don't like it." We all observed subtle changes in the object itself. One day the doors were open, making it look more disheveled than ever. We talked of closing them, for decency, but the truth was we didn't want to go near it. Once some clean, shiny beer cans appeared on the rusty roof, thus making the following connections: this is all trash, this is a useful place to put things, this is humor; is this art?

Just as I was completing the outrageous evolutionary leap from shocked horror to art appreciation and broadness of definition, the thing disappeared. Somebody, not us, took it away. The black smudge remained for a few days, but even that got cleaned up. All that was left was the impact on us of several weeks of dealing with a foreign object, of coating it with layers of explanations, purposes, symbolisms which made it tolerable. We'll remember it for awhile, though, because now whenever we drive by that place on the side of the road, the kids say, "There's the burned-up car gone!"

— Bonner J. McAllester



Ellen Pearson recently discovered a hornets' nest built on a wind chime at a friend's house in Hillsdale, New York, and snapped this photo.

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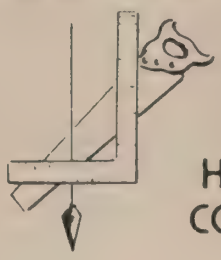

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broken unto time irretrievably,
& the language that is presently
dying, crushed beneath the vast parade
of the 'dozers

Of the last quarter
of this twentieth century,
Jeremiah,
but very soft-spoken
so you will not hear save
you listen

If you should ask Why
should I listen?
I'd be unable to answer

— James H. Michelman

LEAF SONG

Yellow tree out there
Your golden branches dripping
Notes of leaf song come.
Orange and russet trees
You meld to give us rapture
Heart-leaves drop to earth.
Homesick thoughts assail
Always this in autumn lands
Trees' gay colors call.

— Sue Moody

GOODBYE AUTUMN

When all the leaves have fallen to the ground
We bid farewell to autumn's milder days
And look ahead to winter's cold and storm,
And think of nature's rougher, wilder ways.
Our summer birds have gone to warmer clime
And now the blue jays scream from maples tall.
The milkweed pods have burst. Their seeds have flown,
And we say, "Good bye," to another Berkshire fall.

— Eleanor Kimberley

"A HAIKU JOURNEY"

Old haiku brought to view
Shines like a gem anew
To bring us pleasure.

We love its ancient thought
So delicately wrought
With sound—and measure.

— Sue Moody

THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Hidden in the Berkshires
On the Tyringham road,
Stands the Gingerbread House,
A former sculptor's abode.

Sir Henry Kitson built it,
He, of Minute Man fame.
The one that graces Lexington
Bears this sculptor's name.

The roof is a simulation
Of old English thatch.
It curves like the Berkshire Hills,
With small, twin peaks that match.

He used a massive armature
Of heavy chestnut beams
To support the heavy roof
— Some eighty tons it seems.

Specially trained Englishmen
All the shingles applied.
Huge rock pilings across the front
With mysterious grottoes vied.

The gardens in the rear were wild
And meant to attract the birds.
A pond was full of goldfish,
Trained to approach him at his words.

Eighty species of wildflowers
Were brought here from the hills.
For any nature lover
This place, his dream fulfills.

The sculptor had a long, white beard
And when he fed those fish,
Children were mesmerized.
To stay there was their wish.

Inside were more art treasures.
The musty smell was strange.
Little leaded windows
Let sun and shadow change.

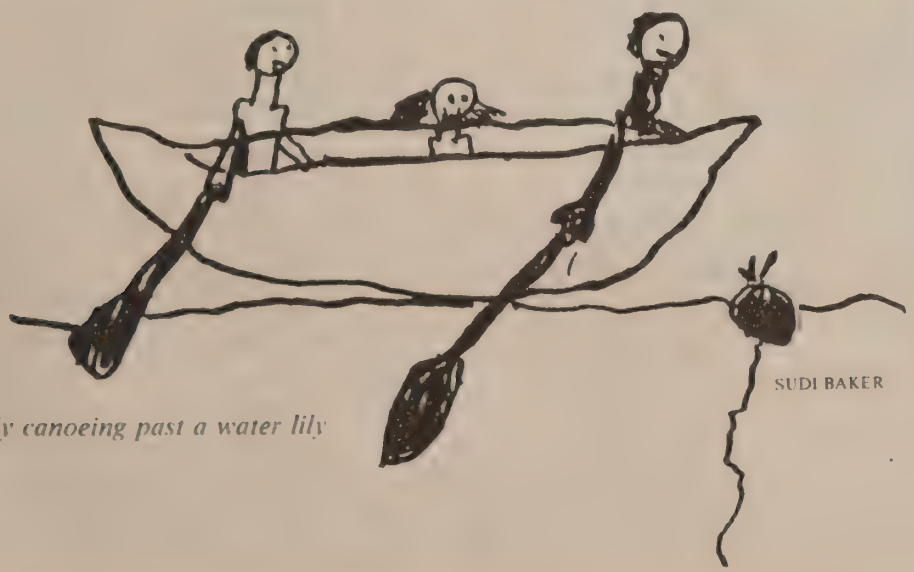
On three floors were studios
With trap door facility
For lowering sculpture
To the main floor's stability.

Plaster busts and replicas
Lined the darkened halls,
And his "in progress" St. Francis
Was set against the walls.

Hansel's and Gretel's wandering
Should have ended here.
There was no witch or oven
But the charm and magic were clear.

Folks said our host was difficult
And very temperamental.
We thought him quite a wizard,
Romantic, sentimental.

— Nancy Adams



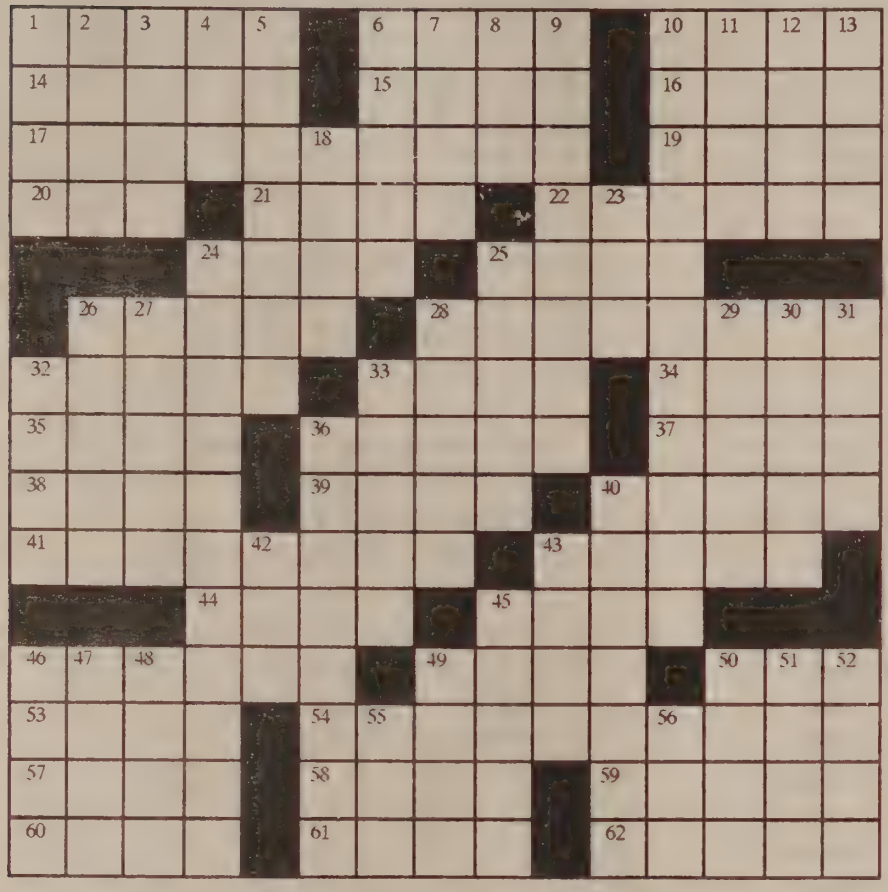
Family canoeing past a water lily

Welcome to a new monthly feature of the *Monterey News*—a crossword puzzle by Ted Tchack. Ted is a Monterey resident and long-time puzzle fan who started constructing his own puzzles a few years ago. His puzzles appear weekly in *The Berkshire Record*, and he has published two volumes of cryptic puzzles. A cryptic puzzle is an English-style crossword—the kind that sometimes appears in the Sunday *New York Times* under the title "Puns and Anagrams."

Ted has recently started publishing a monthly newsletter—devoted exclusively to cryptic puzzles, called *The Cryptic Cruciverbalist*. If you'd like a free sample copy, write to KIRA Publishing Co., Box 389, Monterey, MA 01245.

LITERARY NEW ENGLAND

By Ted Tchack



ACROSS

1 Gave out
6 Costly
10 Attempt
14 Moslem deity
15 Sea eagle
16 ____ Stanley Gardner
17 LITERARY SETTING
19 Wicked
20 Foxy
21 Wagers
22 Kind of signal
24 Whip
25 LITERARY YOUTH
26 Farm wagons
28 Kind of conclusion
32 Carries on
33 Goad
34 Indigo
35 Landed
36 Walks wearily
37 Sci. course
38 False god
39 Rodents
40 Sphere
41 Paragon
43 Woman's name
44 Ooze
45 Lyrics
46 De __,(name of Florence)
49 Large plant
50 Knock
53 Oast
54 LITERARY FARMER
57 Marsh grass
58 Orderly
59 Say
60 Tips
61 Famous gallery
62 Depends

DOWN

1 Blackbirds
2 Mid-east airline
3 Friend
4 Young man
5 Oedipus and Antigone, E.G.
6 Dimension
7 Cupid
8 New England Cape
9 Cardinals
10 LITERARY HOUSE FEATURES
11 Journey
12 Everything in Bonn
13 Beverage
18 Promontory
23 Dir.
24 ". . . HOB-GOBLIN OF ____"
25 Eatables
26 LITERARY MIDDLE NAME
27 Particle
28 Foam
29 Vegetable
30 Weeper of old
31 She in Lyons
32 Pour
33 Location
36 Lustful
40 Joyous
42 Thus!
43 Mid-east land
45 Declaim
46 Additional
47 Smooth
48 Title
49 Not this
50 Agenda
51 So be it!
52 Kind of pronoun (abbr.)
55 Beverage
56 Hwy.

MONTEREY'S VOLCANO

One day in November, a tremor in Monterey shook the world economy and gladdened the hearts of humankind. Overnight in Beartown Forest, the highest point on Mount Wilcox collapsed upon itself, obsolete firetower and all. A formidable chasm yawned a thousand yards across, and the deepest hole on earth came into being. A light cloud of steam hovered over the huge pit, giving off a faint fragrance of frangipani. Geologists hastened to the spot to measure the depth and study the interior of the earth's crust. Environmentalists, analyzing the air, warned Montereyans to be prepared to evacuate the region if noxious fumes were detected.

The first disasters occurred. Any cars or heavy equipment parked within a mile of the site simply sank into the ground and disappeared. But one could approach the pit on foot in perfect safety, and whoever did so reported a steady sense of euphoria as long as they inhaled the sweet breath that flowed from the Monterey Chasm. Before long, environmental theologians were pointing out that Mother Earth required reverence from those who approached her and repaid love and respect with bliss.

Geologists lowered measuring instruments, but the equipment was simply swallowed up in the depths of the great hole after exactly one thousand yards. A helicopter hovered over the Chasm with radar devices, but no echo came back. The geologists, the radar man, and the pilot all agreed that they had never felt so wonderfu. in their lives, and they went off to the Virgin Islands for an indefinite vacation.

Meanwhile, a deep sonority began to emanate from the Chasm. The host of Chasm Watchers, who had never felt so wonderful in their lives, either, noticed that the majestic rumbling was rising in pitch like the sound of water filling a bottle. That night, a glow filled the sky above the Chasm, which slowly brimmed to the top with an incandescent flood of lava. As the tide rose, it cooled on the edges and kept welling up in the center until a perfect cone was formed a thousand yards in diameter at the base and a thousand yards high. It was the tidiest and best behaved little volcano ever seen.

Within a month, the United States Congress had designated Monterey a National Vulcanological Reserve. Barriers were erected on all approaches to the town and visiting privileges, except for homeowners and their friends, had to be obtained from the Central Geodetic Survey Office. A few sightseeing planes flew over, but the practice was soon abanoned since pilots and passengers, thereafter, invariably left for the Virgin Islands.

By now the volcano was affectionately known as Vulquino to the entire world. School children everywhere were studying volcanos instead of dinosaurs. The outer crust of the cone had cooled and solidified and people with permits could easily climb to the top. There was a crater ten feet across. One could look down and see absolutely nothing or look off into the distance and see one of the best views in the Berkshires.

One year after Vulquino had stabilized, Monterey had stabilized, too. A new economy gave fresh vigor to the town. People with homes here found it easy and profitable to rent rooms to the carefully limited number of visitors who were able to obtain permits to visit the volcano. At first it had all been scientists, but Vulquino remained so stable and uneventful that permits were extended to artists, novelists, photographers, and not a few theologians. The Secretary of Education said that to live, or even just to visit, in Monterey was the best learning experience available in the civilized world.

A new geological discipline was evolving to study the phenomenon of the disappearing cars. An enterprising entrepreneur discovered that if a thousand-pound load of waste was left within a mile of the

volcano it disappeared without a trace, just as the cars had. The National Vulquino Board ruled that only Monterey waste could be disposed of in this way until the mysterious action was thoroughly understood. A sigh of relief went up from the watching world when it was later announced that radioactive waste also disappeared with no sign of dangerous emissions from Vulquino.

Of course, friends and relatives of Montereyans, and people with business in the town could come and go, but sightseers at the volcano itself had to be limited to one hundred at a time or cars would clog Blue Hill Road and Beartown Mountain Road. It was feared that large crowds would be unmanageable in the event of what the Board ambiguously termed an "eventuality." Since no cars could come closer than a mile, there would be a long walk to safety. There had been an effort to construct a safe parking place at the foot of the volcano for important visitors, but the heavy machinery needed to build it slowly sank from sight as soon as it paused in its work. The operators, all of whom escaped, went to the Virgin Islands.

On the second anniversary of the birth of the Great Chasm, that rising sonority was heard again by the stalwarts of the Vulquino Society, and the word went around the world. Heads of state, important Senators, and Monterey's Selectmen were permitted to join the scientists and theologians at the Watch, and they were not disappointed. The musicologists announced that the overflow pitch, C-sharp in alt, had been reached, and the audience held their breaths. A bright glow rimmed Vulquino's peak, one side crumbled a little and a gleaming rivulet flowed slowly down the side. It extended for one hundred feet, broadened to ten inches ("first volcano to use the decimal system," muttered a mathematician) and became motionless. The sonority descended, and the senior vulcanologist scrambled up the side to see what the overflow was. "Gold," he called down in a hushed voice. "Pure gold, just about the right amount to pay off the National Budget Deficit."

"Now I'll just ask all of you folks to return to your homes," said Monterey's Chief of Vulquino Security, "and the less any of you say about this the better. That goes for you, too," he said to the editors of *The New York Times* and the *Monterey News*, which was now a daily paper of 50-60 pages.

Federal troops sealed off the town, and the headlines of the international press screamed, "From Garbage Disposal to Gold Dispensation!" Or as one tabloid put it, "From Garb to Gold!" Thereafter a lid was clamped on all news, but heavily guarded armored vans were seen leaving Monterey in the general direction of Fort Knox. As they rumbled heavily away, they left behind them a faint fragrance of frangipani.

"I'd like to know who owns this town?" queried the First Selectman of Monterey, at an important meeting.

"You, the citizens, do, of course," answered the Secretary of the Treasury, smoothly. "But Monterey is now not only a National Volcanic Reserve, it is also the National Treasury Reserve. Our Joint Committee in Washington has to protect . . ."

"Who owns the gold?" interrupted the First Selectman.

"Ah, a very good, though somewhat tricky, question," replied the Secretary. "It seems that gold prices, worldwide, have destabilized and we, ah . . . have to . . . ah. However, in the meantime, Monterey is to have unlimited credit for services from the federal government. Within reason, of course."

At the next Town Meeting, Monterey voted 537 to 3 to secede from the Union. "We're the richest town on earth," said the chairperson of the Finance Committee. "We have no need for the Federal Government."

"But we have need of *you*," replied the Secretary of the Treasury, who seemed to spend most of his time at a bed-and-breakfast on Blue Hill Road. He kept writing back to Washington that he never felt better in his life.

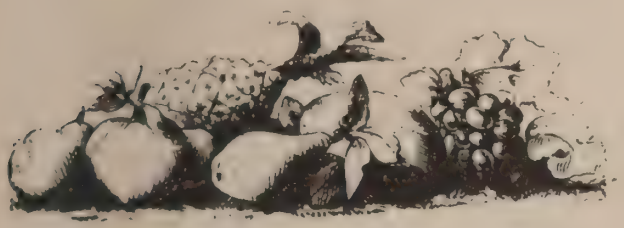
Everyone knows the rest of the story: how just a mile from Vulquino, thermal springs developed that cured every ailment, including old age; how hot air vents opened on the mountainside and created a constant year-round low temperature of 70 degrees; how Otis claimed that Vulquino really originated under the Farmington River, tried to invade and annex Monterey, charged into the faintly frangipanicled atmosphere and went home saying it was all a joke and they never felt better in their lives. Then Great Barrington claimed that the town boundaries had been incorrectly drawn in 1720 and Vulquino belonged to them. Great Britain claimed that they had never given up Monterey in the Treaty of 1783. The Muhikonneuw sued on the grounds that when they sold Western Massachusetts in 1735 they had not included the mineral rights.

Monterey soon learned to invite the aggrieved parties to town for a discussion, and all contention dissolved immediately in the fragrant air. In fact, the air was condensed in large tanks under pressure

and released in the halls of parliaments, congresses, dumas, high courts, diwans, juntas and diets around the globe; agreements became so easy and obvious that most people got out of politics altogether.

Every ten years, Vulquino dispensed another great bar of gold and rescued the United States from its latest fiscal folly. The frangipanicled Congress spent the major portion of its vulquincome on schools, hospitals, social services and the arts. And did the people of Monterey degenerate under the influence of affluence? No, they loved to earn honest money in their bed-and-breakfasts where they met great minds from afar; they loved serving in the elegantly simple health spas at the thermal springs where their humanitarian instincts flowered and their visitors all got well. And the major preoccupation of everybody seemed to be to make Monterey beautiful enough to live up to the worldwide esteem in which it was held.

— David P. McAllester



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W	A	L	D	E	N	P	O	N	D		V	I	L	E
S	L	Y		B	E	T	S		B	E	E	P	E	R
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M	E	D	I	C	I		T	R	E	E		R	A	P
O	V	E	N		E	T	H	A	N	F	R	O	M	E
R	E	E	D		N	E	A	T		U	T	T	E	R
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
One might have hoped that by the injection of much circumspection and some diplomacy into the berm crisis, a more satisfying compromise solution would've been reached than simply moving the berm off the Town's property. Can't the legitimate interests of both sides be met by a more esthetically pleasing reconfiguration of the fill? A flattened but broader berm could certainly eliminate the visual aspect of Route 23 from the house. If noise is the problem, are we willing to reduce the speed limit (in the interest of safety) all the way back to the Barnum Flats? There have been at least two very serious accidents in that stretch in recent years. A more leisurely pace along the road would give us all ample opportunity to enjoy the view.

On another level, perhaps we can learn a lesson from this unfortunate affair: a "scenic roads" designation placed on some or all of our roads by Town Meeting vote would provide a mechanism which would require a landowner to work with a panel of townspeople in the context of a public hearing to seek the best alternatives prior to any alteration or destruction or obliteration of some significant environmental or historical or scenic feature along *our* roads. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound (or 10,000 tons) of cure.

— Peter Vallianos

To the Editor:
The full moon of October reminded us that ten years have passed since many of us gathered on the shore of Lake Garfield, under that light, to celebrate "THE MONTEREY ENERGY PROJECT."

We are grateful to call this beautiful village our home and especially thankful for the *Monterey News*, which keeps us in touch with all of those sparks of community energy who still truly proclaim that *Monterey Lights The Way.*

Thank you!

— Alice and Arthur Somers

To the Editor:
This is a plea for help!

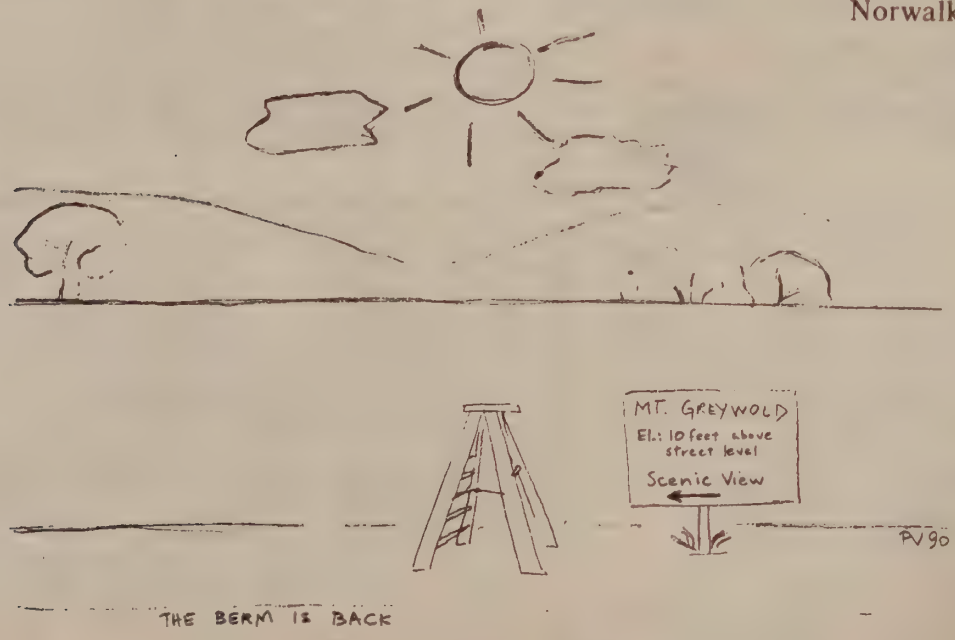
I recently met with former shipmates Henry Artioli of Springfield, Massachusetts, and Mark Curtiss of Billings, Montana. We have contact with other shipmates in Boston, Maine and Wisconsin.

We are World War II veterans who served on board the *U. S. S. Natrona*, APA 214 in the Pacific and are seeking information about former shipmates with the intent of organizing a reunion.

Knowing the far-reaching arm of the *Monterey News*, with the many readers with friends and relations spread across the U. S. A., I am confident that additional shipmates will be found. Our ship was a very lucky ship, and all hands survived the war.

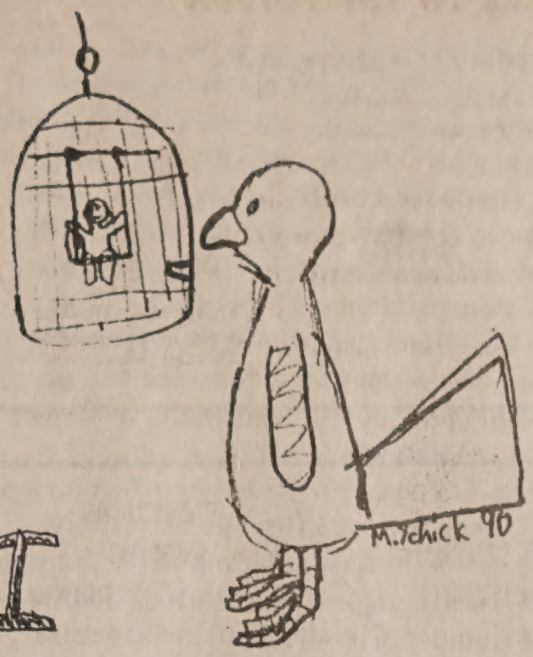
Please send responses to:

— Charles Adenau
13 Daphne Drive
Norwalk, Connecticut 06851



THE BERM IS BACK

PETS · ON OTHER PLANETS II



SECOND CLASS UPDATE

The coupons continue to trickle in, at an ever-decreasing rate. Correspondents tell us that it takes an average of two weeks for the *Monterey News* to reach Great Barrington, four weeks to the New York City area, and eight weeks to California. PLEASE, PLEASE help us change this situation by sending in your coupon now. We need 650 coupons before we can apply for a second-class mailing permit. And don't forget to sign it—unsigned coupons are invalid.

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November 1, 1990

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PERSONAL NOTES

Our congratulations to **Karen Hayes** and **Christopher Traynor**, who were married on September 29 at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington. Karen, the daughter of **Arnold** and **Judy Hayes** of Tyringham Road, is presently employed at Bridgewater State Hospital, and Christopher, who hails from Plympton, MA, is store manager for Christy's Market in Plymouth. Both received degrees from Bridgewater State College in 1988. We understand their wedding cruise to the Caribbean was just wonderful. Our best wishes to both of them for many more happy moments to come.

And, our congratulations to **Robin** and **Jonathan Kargman**, whose first child, a beautiful little girl named **Brooke Heather**, was born in New York City on October 16, weighing in at 7 lbs. 5½ oz. And, our best wishes to the thrilled grandparents, **Bud** and **Shirley Pearl** of Bidwell Road.

Hats off to **Douglas Brown**, who received his private pilot's license on September 15. We're happy to see that Douglas has recovered quickly from his recent emergency appendectomy also. Good news all around!

October 17 was an exciting day in Boston for the **Mendel** family, as **Julian Carlos** received his U. S. citizenship. Four-year-old Julian was born in Chile, and we all share the joy, along with **Mark**, **Tracey** and **Bridget**, of having Julian as part of our family.

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Ernie Heath** on October 1, to **Patrick McBride**, all the way out in Washington State enjoying his freshman year at Whitman College, on November 1, to **Edith Wilson** on November 10, to **Andi Dunlop** on November 11, to **Brittany Piretti** on November 15, and to **Jen Brown**, **Florence Brown**, **Gale Forbes** and **Kirsten Quisenberry**, all on November 25.

Please continue to jot down your news items, birthdays, etc., and drop them at the General Store or in the mail to me, Route 23. Or give me a call at 528-4519. It's great to receive your contributions. I appreciate it!

— Stephanie Grotz

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CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following readers who have sent in contributions during the past month:

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Alf & Lena Pedersen
Cathy & Bud Rodgers
Virginia & Charles Adenau
Catherine & Henry Brooks
Richard & Melvene Dyer-Bennett
Miriam F. Rosengart

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CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 6—Prayer breakfast at the Howell/Andersen home. 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 10—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is open to anyone. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $4; children, $1 to dance until intermission. Information: (413) 528-9385.

Wednesday, November 14—Community Dinner. 6:30 p.m. in the church basement.

Thursday, November 15—Friends of Silence meditation at the Howell/Andersen home. 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 24—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. Joe Baker calling, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission $4. Information: 528-9385.

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Three-inch ad (3″ x 3″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4⅛″ x 3″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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Reporters	Maggie Leonard David P. McAllester Ellen K. Pearson
Poetry Editor	David P. McAllester
Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
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Typesetters	Pat Amstead Eileen Clawson
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